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# The UNION STANDARD

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February 2004

Vol. 12, no2

## *The Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> United States Infantry, The Regulars*

### **Dispatch from the Board**

Well gentlemen, nice turn out at drill last month. It was obvious that you didn't lose much of your professionalism over the holiday season. With a little reading up between now and the end of the month we should be all set for Battalion Muster. There is plenty of food available if you're making a late decision to attend muster just show up. Just because the staff gets nervous when we don't know who is coming, an e-mail to 1stSgt Prendergast ([d1stus@gte.net](mailto:d1stus@gte.net)) would be appreciated.

At the January drill we conducted our annual meeting to vote on events for the upcoming year. It was a good discussion with lots of input from all of you. The events we are now committed to are: March 16, Beaumont, TX. We decided to make this primarily a one-day event although I expect there will be a fair number who will want to spend the entire weekend. Camping areas are changed this year and the 9<sup>th</sup> TX is galvanizing. Mark Griffith will be the Federal Commander. Right now we are planning on meeting mid morning on Saturday. We would like to march into the town and then into battle.

Cross Timbers (Gainsville, TX) is the weekend of April 16<sup>th</sup>. This will be an outstanding event. Our own Bob Furman is part of the organizing committee and we are heavily involved in the scenario planning. There will be one spectator battle on Saturday. From 5:00 PM on, after the spectators leave, we are on our own till noon on Sunday. This is one of the finest pieces of property to reenact on that you'll ever see. More land than you could want with practically no modern intrusions. The scenarios are written to accommodate those who like a more traditional camping environment as well as those who like to rough it. We will have a workday before the event to help place out wood and other amenities. You won't want to miss this reenactor friendly event.



May 21<sup>st</sup> will find us at Bellmead (Waco, TX). This will be a one-day drive by and recruiting opportunity. Of course October 1<sup>st</sup> is Franklin, TN. This is the year's big national event and was voted as a Brigade max effort. This is a three-day event so you'll want to start planning for this now.

Someone suggested going to Fort Chadbourne this year and combine the live fire with another garrison scenario. Ft Chadbourne has what amounts to a wide-open firing range. We'll be able to test our marksmanship out to max range of the muskets. We originally planned to be there in November but have since realized that this is the start of deer season. Probably not a

good time for us to be running around west Texas with 19<sup>th</sup> century muskets when the place will likely be swarming with folks with modern rifles. Right now we are looking at dates in September, June (temperature permitting) or the last weekend in October. Fort Chadbourne had elements of the 1<sup>st</sup> stationed there at various times.

The unit was split on attending Prairie Grove, AR in December. We decided to postpone a decision on a December activity till later this year.

Finally, it was suggested we do a purely social event this summer. Brad Walsh is heading up the planning for this. Anyone who is interest in helping out with this activity or has any suggestions should contact Brad directly.

This is shaping up to be an exciting year. I think we have a good mix of close to home and big events, as well as field and garrison scenarios. Something for everyone! We fielded two companies at Atoka last year and I hope to do the same if not better for Muster, Franklin, and Fort Chadbourne.

*See you in the field.*

**Don Gross**

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**Directions to Ft. Washita.** See PAGE 2 for details.

# 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Calendar

2004

**FEBRUARY**

27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion Muster, Ft. Washita OK

**MARCH**

6<sup>th</sup>& 7<sup>th</sup> *Annual North Texas Irish Festival at Dallas Fair Park*

19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> *Beaumont Ranch – Grandview Texas*

**APRIL**

17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> Cross Timbers – Gainsville Texas

**MAY**

21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> *Bellmeade – Waco Texas*

**AUGUST**

(tbd) Annual Live Fire

**OCTOBER**

1-3 Franklin Tn, 1<sup>st</sup> Federal Division NATIONAL EVENT

*Note: Italicized dates have not been voted on yet by the membership, but are events that we have attended in the past which occur during these months.*

## Recruiting Post

by George Hansen

Well, 2004 is here and Beaumont Ranch is the first reenactment the 1<sup>st</sup> US will recruit at. Contact me if you wish to help, as we'll do so both days. In April at the Saturday Gainesville outing we'll setup the fine recruiting table built by John Bowen and test our enlistment skills. This table will also be at Beaumont and please stop by to view it. John spent more than 40 hours constructing it, which includes the carved emblems.

Look for a special recruiting event this Spring in the Plano area. Stay tuned for more details. As always stated by me at the beginning of the year, just think if every member this year recruited just one new person? Yep, the ranks would swell and my services wouldn't be needed. So hit the trail and

start campaigning for the fine merits this hobby presents. Lastly, any ideas or suggestions are cheerfully welcomed and I'm open to anything, even including McFuddy's mug on a recruiting poster.

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## Washita Directions

See [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) for more detail.

**From Hwy 75** – about 2 miles north of Durant, OK, take the Hwy 48 exit and proceed north. At 3 miles turn left (west) onto Hwy 78 and follow the signs to Ft. Washita, which is roughly 8 miles.

**From I-35** – take the Hwy 70 exit east about 2 miles south of Ardmore, OK. In Madill take 199 east to Ft. Washita, which is 11 miles.

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## New Recruit (Galvanized Reb)

### New Recruit

Rarely do we acquire a new recruit who is known by handful of First US members. Such is Mark Backus who is anything but a "recruit." He has been recruiting for 8 years as a Confederate, first joined us last November at Bentonville, and is heavily involved coordinating the revamp efforts of our web site. Mark is also a Sons of Union Veterans member in the Lone Star Camp having served as Dept. Commander, Camp Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, and is the current Lone Star Camp newsletter editor. Mark gave our own "Cookie" Gates meal ideas as Mark once performed cook duties. His service to the Cause will, no doubt, be invaluable, but since he hails from Arkansas and possesses gray clothing, several Rackensackers will keep a keen eye that Mark soon takes that 'Oath of Allegiance'. "Mark, welcome to the First!"

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## Camp Tales

“A sergeant of a New Jersey related a New Year’s experience thus: ‘Last night I had plenty of Whiskey but to day I have none, we had five canteens full and we had a merry old Time. They broke all my furniture, tore my table cloth, and tore every thing upside down, I thought I would fire a salute, I got my musket and fired it, and I set my tent a fire, and by the time I got through, my tent was most burnt up. New Years don’t come but once a year, & tents are cheap.’”

*Wonder if this is McFuddy’s cousin?*

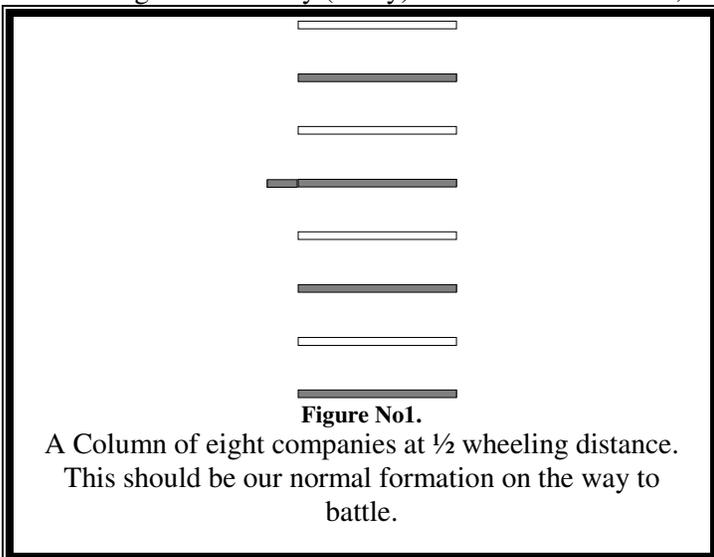
From the book “The Life of Billy Yank” by Bell Irvin Wiley  
 Submitted by Ron Myers –

*(no, it tishn’t any cousin of mine... no cousin of mine could make it as high as Sgt. Same reason none of us were lawyers, we can’t pass the Bar ya see...McF.)*

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## Defend against Calvary -- Form Square

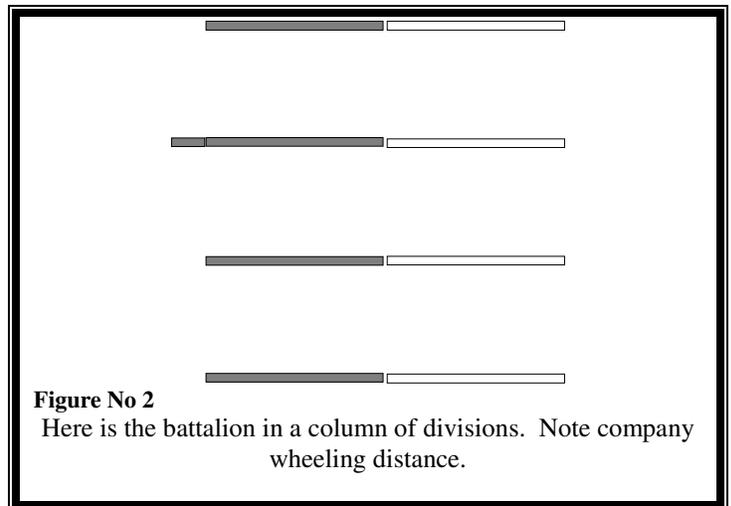
With a few notable exceptions, like First Bull Run, this was not a formation that you read about much being used in the Civil War, at least in the common literature. There is a relatively large amount of space devoted to it in Casey’s and as members of the regular fighting force we would certainly be able to form a square with our normal alacrity. Besides the pride of being able to do something that not many (if any) reenactor units can do,



Once divisions are formed we can form a square to defend against calvary. 1. *Form Square.* 2. *Right and left into line, wheel.* 3. MARCH. As with most

Imagine the look on their faces next time the Johnny Cavalry comes charging out to play and they’re confronted by a square! Oh momma, what do we do now!

The basic pre-square formation is a column of Divisions. Matter of fact the first paragraph (999) in School of the Battalion says that the “battalion being in a column of companies, right in front, at half distance..... he will first cause divisions to be formed”. Column of companies at half distance is something we do all the time. This is the formation we should be using (and its variation, closed in mass) anytime the enemy is near i.e. whenever we go out to fight. The first figure shows a column of eight companies at half distance. Of course Casey’s being Casey’s you have to hunt a bit to find out how you get from column of companies to divisions. Ah there it is, paragraph #437 **Being in column by company, closed in mass, to form divisions.** The colonel commands: 1. *Form Divisions.* 2. *Left Companies, left – FACE.* 3. MARCH. The right companies will stand fast while the left companies face left and march. From now on each company will listen to its captain who will halt it and dress it on his respective left company. There is lots more detail on this in Casey’s but you’re on your own here, this article is about forming a square. Remember – a division is nothing more that two companies side by side. We’re at half a page already and are just now in a formation where we can form a square. As shown in the second picture, if you start at half wheeling distance, you will end up with divisions at full company wheeling distance.

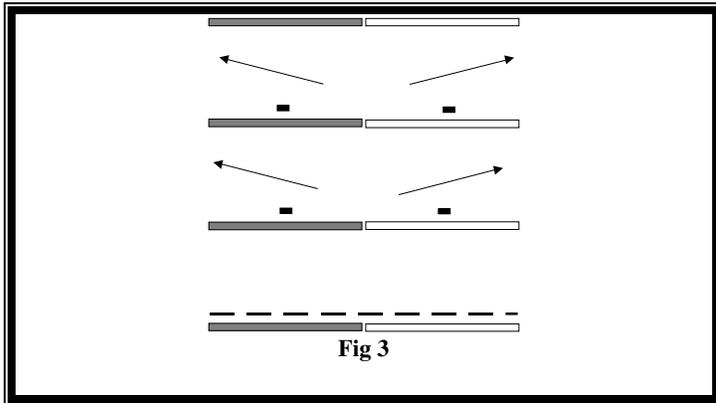


evolutions there is a lot going on during the first two commands.

At the command *Form Square* the file closers of the fourth division move to two places before the front rank,

opposite their normal places, and face towards the head of the column. The Lt Col and senior Major will align the left and right guides respectively of the first division with the left and right guides of the fourth division. The guides of the fourth division will stand fast and raise their muskets inverted. The guides of the second and third divisions will line up accordingly, the second division to make sure they take their distance from the rear rank of the first division (maintain company wheeling distance).

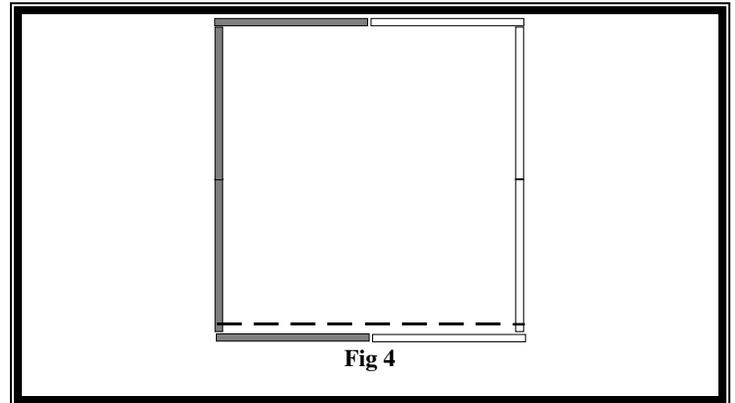
At the second command, *Right and left into line, wheel*, the chief of the first division will caution it to stand fast; the captains of the second and third divisions will move to the center of their respective companies and caution their companies that they will have to wheel to the right for the right companies and the left for the left companies (in each division). The color bearer will step back into the line of file closers, his place being taken by the corporal in the rear rank, and the rear rank in turn being filled by the file closer. (This will bring the colors



inside the square, protected by two files of men with muskets.)

The chief of the fourth division will command: 1. Fourth division, forward; 2. Guide center. He will then place himself on the left flank of the division.

Once these movements are completed, the colonel will command: 3. MARCH. The division commanders repeat this command. The first division stands fast but the right file will face to the right and the left file will face to the left. The companies of the second and third divisions will wheel to the left and right respectively. (See Figure 3) At the same time the fourth division closes up to form the square. Once closed it will face about and align the rear rank on the guides who remain facing to the front. The junior captain takes his place in the rear rank (now the front) and the covering sergeant take his place behind him. The file closers close to one pace, and the outer files face outward (to the left or right). Once the square is formed, the colonel will command: *Guides – POSTS*.



At this command the guides and the chiefs of the first and fourth divisions enter the square. The captains of the companies that wheeled to the right remain on the left of their companies. The field staff enters the square.

The front made up by the first division is the first front; the right companies the second front, the left the third, and the last division the fourth front. The square can advance up to thirty paces by any front. For example: 1. *By the first front, forward*. 2. MARCH. The chief of the first front in turn commands 1. *First division, forward*. 2. *Guide center*; The chief of the second front will face it to the left; the chief of the third front will face it to the right; the chief of the fourth front gives the front *about face* and commands, 1. *Fourth division, forward*. 2. *Guide center*. At the command MARCH, the square moves off. When the square is halted the fourth front will automatically face about and the second and third fronts face outward without further command.

To move anything other than a short distance, the column must reform. The colonel commands: 1. *Form column*. Again this is the signal for lots of activity. The chief of the first front commands: 1. *First division, forward*. 2. *Guide center*. The commander of the fourth front will command it to stand fast. The commander of the second front will face his front to the left, and then command: 1. *By company, by file left*. The commander of the third front will do the same to the opposite direction. The companies will break the first three files to the rear.

Once this is accomplished the colonel command: MARCH. The first front moves off, the chief will halt the front when it advances one company distance, and then dress left. The companies of the second and third fronts march by files till they meet each other behind the center of the first division. As soon as they meet, each captain will halt his company, face it to the front. The division will then dress left. The commander of the fourth front will face it about. The file closers remain in front of the front rank. Now that the column is re-formed the

colonel can march it off. This same procedure is used to break the square. The only difference is that the file closers of the fourth front will return to their positions behind the rear rank when faced about, and the field staff and color bearers return to their normal places in column formation.

**There you have the basics of forming a square. Next step is to do it on the move or from a line of battle.**

### **From the Field**

**Sgt Thomas** was observed sporting some new footwear at January's drill. They appeared to be some kind of new waterproof vulcanized rubber cavalry boots. We can't help wondering if the war department will see fit to change the regulations on footwear to infantry troops.

The War Department has a bad habit of pulling Regulars out of their units and sending them off on detached duty. So it was good to see that **Private Gross** managed to get furlough from his duties in Colorado to attend the January drill.

Ol' sawbones finally got a hold of the good captain and repaired his hip that was damaged during his service in Mexico. It remains to be seen if the doc used parts from a mule or jackass. Guess we'll be able to tell at muster.

### **On Line Information**

Interested in studying the drill manuals but you don't have a hard copy? The following sites have links to Casey's and other period drill manuals on line. A word of caution, If you want to read up on Battalion and above evolutions you'll have to buy the book. There is only through School of the Company on line.

<http://members.aol.com/BRIGADEFRONTIER/>

This is the Frontier Brigade web site. Has information on the brigade and units as well as links to the drill manuals and other interesting reading.

<http://www.usregulars.com/> Concise history of all regular units, and links to assorted manuals. Also Sykes Regulars reenactor unit.

HD Qrs Detcht,  
Fenian Brotherhood  
Blue Moon Pub  
Chicago Illinois

Feb 13, 1863

To Miss Tula  
2100 N Lincoln Blvd  
Oklahoma City, Indian Territories

Dear Madam,

As requested by that no good lay-about Thomas O'Doole I am forwarding to you the funds collected on behalf of the 1<sup>st</sup> United States Infantry for rations covering the duration of their stay at Ft. Washita in the Indian Territories for the period 27<sup>th</sup> thru Feb 28<sup>th</sup> of this year.

Those listed below are due rations:

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Backus,	Mark
Barton,	Conway
Bassett,	Kevin
Benefield,	Greg
Benefield,	Adam
Benefield,	Wesley
Bowen,	John
Bowen,	Sean
Brockman,	Rick
Fett,	Greg
Foote,	Jeff
Frazier,	Troy
Fullerton,	Scott
Gates,	Don
Graham,	PJ
Gross,	Don
Hansen,	George
Harris,	Scott
Hargis,	Glen
Maturin,	Stephen
Myers,	Ron
McFuddy,	Ahknatan
McFuddy,	Herakles
McFuddy,	Hippocrates
McFuddy,	Leonidias
McFuddy,	Peracles
McFuddy,	Selucis
Nelson,	Dave
Prejean,	Ed
Prendergast,	Sean
Rogers,	Don
Rudy,	Blair
Rudy,	Neil
Sanders,	Steve

.....

Schultz, Andrew  
Schultz, John  
Smith, Aaron  
Smith, Matt  
Thomas, Brook  
Thomas, Julie  
Walsh, Brad

I have the honor to be,  
Very respectfully  
Your obt. Servant

Alloysius Quincy McFuddy  
Quarter Master General  
Fenian Brotherhood  
(Up the Republic)

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### A Camp Tale of our Hero Hackett

“The guard-house was located just inside the Fort entrance and a bridge spanned the moat to the entrance. Once, when Captain G was officer of the day, it was his duty to inspect the guard at least once after midnight. Hackett was at Post number one, near the gateway of the Fort. It was a dark, rainy night, when Hackett heard Capt. G approach, and called out, ‘Who comes there?’ Captain G being on one side of the bridge, stumbled and fell headlong into the moat; as he fell he exclaimed in a loud voice, ‘Jesus Christ!’ Hackett faced about and called out promptly, ‘turn out the Apostles. Jesus Christ is coming.’ Then the guard helped the Captain out of the moat.”

From the book “The Life of Billy Yank” by Bell Irvin Wiley

Submitted by Ron Myers

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### Lessons From Lincoln

Some question has arisen as to Mr. Lincoln’s religious opinions, but this story illustrates his attitude towards religion. A Southern woman who had come to see Lincoln about her husband, who was confined in a Northern prison because of his “pernicious politics,” mentioned the fact that the prisoner was a religious man.

“I’m glad to hear that,” Lincoln said, cheerfully; and the lady smiled hopefully in response. Then he went on, “Because any man who wants to

disrupt this Union needs all the religion in sight to save him.”

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### From Battalion HQ

Men of the 1st Battalion:

I would like to begin this by wishing you and your families a belated Happy and Prosperous New Year. Hopefully our upcoming campaigns in the field this year will present us more opportunities to try new things and to continue our here-to-fore successful efforts to become a more cohesive unit both professionally and socially.

I must commend all of you for your support of the Battalion, even though there was a lot of volatility in the events due to weather conditions and scheduling. Recalling the events we attended as a Battalion and Brigade, our Battalion seems to be infused by a new *esprit de corps* that looks as if, at least it seems to this writer, we’re moving in the right direction. Our drill is becoming crisp, and we seem to have a good mix of companies, company commanders, and NCO’s.

Our next event in the field is the much anticipated and ever-so-popular Battalion Muster at the venerable Ft. Washita. Our board has increased a bit from times past, but still remains a heck of a deal @ \$15 per man for 3 meals Saturday and a hot breakfast Sunday. Our Muster will be February 28-29, 2004, and as is our tradition, the billeting of troops will be as follows:

- Senior NCO’s (Sergeants and above) will be billeted on the west side of the West barracks (ruins).
- Junior NCO’s (corporals) and enlisted men will be billeted on the second floor of the South barracks
- Company officers and other branches of the Army will be on the north side of the parade ground.
- Ladies will be billeted on the ground floor of the South barracks in the east room.
- The west room on the ground floor of the barracks will be the Mess Hall.

Company Officers: I will be sending you, in a couple of weeks, a list of the evolutions and potential schedule that we will be conducting @ the Muster, so I hope that you will have studied up on your drill and will be able to convey confidence in the maneuvers to the men and thereby also

shortening the time of drill – especially the time consuming task of yours truly taking the time to explain every maneuver. Gracis Deo.

In the afternoon we will have several classes on appropriate topics on improving our living history, as well as personal and company martial competitions. Drill will conclude on Saturday with a Battalion bayonet drill led by our Division Commander, then Evening Parade before supper. Sunday will include a formal review for visiting officers of the Brigade/Division.

Enlisted Uniform guidelines:

- 4 button sack coat, sky blue kersey pants, black Hardee/slouch or forage cap for drill.
- Evening Parade/review uniform will be frock w/ Hardees or fatigue blouse with forage caps, sky blue kersey trousers, white gloves for all. Brass must be polished and uniform free of mud. If there are extenuating circumstances, the company NCO's need to let the Adj. know.
- 4 button fatigue blouse, sky blue kersey pants, forage cap for guard detail.

Officer Uniform guidelines:

- Frock coat/shell jacket or officer sack with sky blue kersey or dark blue pants for drill, Forage, kepi, slouch or Hardee hat.
- Evening Parade/review uniform will be frock/ shell or officer fatigue blouse with Hardee, kepi, or forage in good condition. All officers on parade/review will have swords and white gloves. Brass must be polished and uniform free of mud. If there are extenuating circumstances, please let me know.
- Officer of the Day/Guard will wear a sash in the prescribed manner.

Impedimenta will be limited to the following guidelines:

- Period items brought befitting the status/rank of the individual soldier.

- Physical strength of the soldier dragging the stuff up the stairs into the barracks.
- Anachronistic items will not be displayed on the post from 6:00 am Saturday until noon Sunday.

I look forward to seeing you all at Ft. Washita. We will drill and play hard and have a great weekend of fellowship. If you have any questions, please let me know. May God add His blessings to you and your families this New Year!

I remain, YMOS,  
G. Benefiel, Cmdg.  
1st Battalion Infantry, 3rd Bde., 1st Fed. Div.

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### Newsletter Costs

Members who receive the newsletter by mail can help the First US save money by requesting a newsletter copy only by e-mail. The postage and printing costs will help the treasury pay for a needed national flag and other items essential to our impression. Should you wish to contribute to this goal contact G. Hansen at [beast1st@comcast.net](mailto:beast1st@comcast.net).

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**Newsletter contributions** - E-Mail/Mailing submissions to **The Union Standard** – [d1stus@gte.net](mailto:d1stus@gte.net) or C/O Alan Prendergast, 1403 Barclay Drive, Carrollton Texas, 75007

**Newsletter** – contact George Hansen if you did not receive your newsletter, [beast1st@attbi.com](mailto:beast1st@attbi.com) or (972) 529-5349.

**Address/Telephone changes** – any mailing/e-mail address changes or telephone number changes should be submitted to John Bowen, [jbowen1stus@comcast.net](mailto:jbowen1stus@comcast.net) or (972) 539-6167.



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nation.”

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## **The Union Standard**

*Newsletter of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry*

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